

BROWNFIELDS GREEN SPACE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Authorization: s. 292.79, Wis. Stats.

Budget: There was \$1 million available for the 2003-2005 biennium.

Objective: This program was created to promote the cleanup of brownfields where the end-use has a long-term public benefit, including preservation of green space, development of recreational areas or use by a local government. A brownfield is an abandoned, idle, or underused industrial or commercial site or facility, the expansion or redevelopment of which is adversely affected by actual or perceived environmental contamination.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are local units of government, including cities, villages, towns, counties, redevelopment authorities, community development authorities and housing authorities. Eligible costs include activities to remedy environmental contamination.

Level of Assistance: Grants up to \$200,000 are available.

Priorities: If sufficient funds are not available to fund all eligible, complete applications, the DNR is required to score and rank eligible, complete applications and award points in accordance with the criteria proposed ch. NR 173, Wis. Admin. Code. Grant funding is offered to the highest ranked applicant, then continuing down the ranked list until all funds are allocated. Projects are ranked according to the following criteria: project need, applicant commitment, financial contribution, and environmental benefits.

Eligible Types of Projects: Eligible projects include cleanup of brownfields where the end use has a long-term public benefit.

Applications: Applications are available on the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment's web site.

History: The Brownfields Study Group, a state-wide advisory task force, recommended the creation of the program in their 2000 final report. The State Legislature then authorized \$1 million for the program in the 2001-2003 State Biennial Budget, however no grants were awarded that biennium because the funds lapsed into the general fund due to the budget repair law. In the Spring of 2004 the first \$1 million in grants were awarded to 11 brownfield projects.

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